



GAINFORD C E PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER Friday 12th February 2021



After what seems like a very long half term, I am sure that parents, carers, teachers and pupils are looking forward to a break from teaching and learning. I certainly do not underestimate the pressures and challenges that families and staff are faced with when lock down and partial school closures occur. I know that many of you are working from home and at the same time trying to keep children engaged with their school work. I really do applaud all concerned and thank you for your support with your child's/children's learning. The small staff team here at school have worked harder than ever to help children engage with their home learning whilst still teaching those in school. It has been a challenging time and hopefully we will soon be able to bring all of our pupils back into school. It has been wonderful to see so many of our pupils on Teams, Zoom and Tapestry but it's not the same as seeing them in person!

The government have said that the 8th of March is the earliest date that schools will open for all pupils so we will await a government announcement on the current lockdown measures. Hopefully there is light at the end of the tunnel. Fingers crossed.

Chinese New Year

Over the course of this week children at home and at school have been learning about the stories, traditions and customs associated with this festival. It has been wonderful to see artwork from home and school including Chinese lanterns, shadow puppets and dragons' eyes! Rev Eileen Harrop also shared a wonderful Chinese New Year message with the children and gave us an insight into how families in Singapore would be celebrating today.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C7LbG3ZP450&feature=youtu.be>

As it is Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day) on the 16th let's have some pancake pictures to share too!

Art/DT

If you want to get creative Miss Farley has put out an appeal for artwork focusing on the positive side of lockdown. This can be children's work or work from other members of the family. Artwork can be in any media, sewing, painting, photography, drawing, modelling etc. Please take a photograph of any entry and send it to your child's class teacher or through to the school email.

Class Dojo Points

Children at home and at school are awarded Dojo points (house points) for things such as excellent work, super effort, creativity etc. The points are totalled up at the end of the week and the team with the most points is awarded the housepoint trophy for that week. Your child should now have a log in so they can see their own Dojo avatar/character and how many points they have been awarded. This is set back to zero for the start of each week. Your child can also change their character. We think this is a great way to include all of the children working at home and at school. We are currently only using Class Dojo for house points and not for uploading work.

Take care- and we really do hope to see you all soon!

Covid-Update

Thankfully, we have had no positive Covid test results in school. If you or your family members have any symptoms of Coronavirus, please ensure all members of your household self-isolate. Please book in for a test.

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> and follow the stay-at-home guidance below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

If your child is currently attending school and tests positive for coronavirus over the half term break, please alert school by phoning 07425615874 or send an email to gainford@durhamlearning.net with details of when symptoms first started; this will help us to inform any close contacts.

Quick Reminder

If you do need to come into the main entrance of school will you please wear a face covering.



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Governing Body update

We Need You!

We need a parent governor to join our Governing Body. We have a fantastic Governing Body Team, and they work with the Headteacher to make strategic decisions for the school. If you are interested in becoming a governor please contact Mrs Riley for a chat about the role.

You must have a child in any year group from Reception to Year 6 (not pre-school only).

Teachers' Awards

Home Learning Superstars

We are also starting to send out postcards to recognise some of the fabulous work completed at home too. Watch out for 'Home Learning Superstar' postcards dropping through letter boxes. Who knows it could be you!

Awards are for work on Chinese New Year and home learning.

Class Swale	School Home	Jessica Charlotte Grace Maddie
Class Wear	School Home	Joe Erin
Class Tees	School Home	Lydia Alfie

Dates for your Diary

Last day of this half term Friday 12th February

Return to School Monday 22nd February

World Book Day Thursday 4th March (more details to follow)

Teacher Training Day Monday 22nd April -school closed to pupils

Community Project: Crisp Packet Blankets for the Homeless

Yes, blankets can really be made out of foil crisp packets!

We will be sending out information about our Community Lent Project.

In the meantime, if you do have some crisps and they are in a foil packet, please save the packets for school; they could end up helping to keep someone warm!

HOUSEPOINTS /DOJO points

Well done for hard work and effort in school and at home this week! The Dojo points have been totalled up and **Leaping Lions** have come out on top this week!

DIZZY DOGS

189

FANTASTIC FOXES

176

LEAPING LIONS

201

COOL CATS

168

Fun Fact The current population of **China** is **1,442,751,989**.